

25th Anniversary Special Edition

Greenbelt News Review

AN INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPER

Vol. 26, Number 36

Greenbelt, Md.

Thursday, August 9, 1962

GREENBELT ORGANIZATIONS 1937-62

An apocryphal story is told of a visitor to early Greenbelt who, noting the relative isolation of the town, asked a local resident what people do here in their spare time. Back came the rejoinder, "We organize." This was no understatement. More than 35 organizations were counted during the first year and meeting space was at a premium. Some people were busy every night attending one or more meetings. The proliferation of meetings was so great that at one stage, a local resident suggested a moratorium on meetings for a whole week. This suggestion was headlined in the Washington newspapers who seized upon it as evidence of Greenbelt's rebellion against regimentation.

Despite the introduction of TV and the closer binding of Greenbelt to the rest of the metropolitan area, organizations still abound in Greenbelt. This section is devoted to a history of these organizations and institutions. The oldest in point of time is the city government which, with its provisions for wide citizen participation, set the pattern for the development of other civic, cooperative, and social groups.

The City Government

Greenbelt's town charter, introduced into the Maryland State Legislature by the Prince Georges County delegation, was duly enacted and became effective on June 1, 1937. Written even before the first citizens had moved into the new town, this instrument of government, dedicated to simplicity, has required no significant change in its 25-year history. A charter amendment, effective June 1, 1949, changed the designation of Greenbelt from a town to a city.

As Maryland's first manager-council form of municipal government, the charter provides for an efficient division of responsibility between a changing legislative body and a permanent administrative staff.

The non-partisan council, or legislative body, of five equal members is elected at large every odd-numbered year with nomination by petition only. Council elects from its members a mayor and mayor pro-tem. The office of mayor, however, is largely ceremonial as its holder has no greater authority than other council members. Council establishes governmental policy, legislates for the "welfare, health, safety, and improvement" of Greenbelt, and super-

vises the administrative staff through its manager. Council maintains contact with current public opinion through use of advisory committees (Recreation Advisory Committee, Advisory Planning Board, etc.) drawn from an interested public and from open attendance and participation at its regular meetings.

The city manager is appointed by and responsible to the council. His appointment is based on his professional qualifications and is for an indefinite term. He has final authority in the appointment of municipal employees and is required by charter to hire only on the basis of job qualifications. Council has no authority over employees subordinate to the manager except for the confirmation of the appointment of solicitor. The manager thus has complete administrative authority over the executive branch of the government which includes the departments of public safety, public works, recreation, finance, and sanitation.

Dual Roles

The first two town councils each served only one year in order to reflect Greenbelt's changing population as tenants moved into residence. The first regular two-year council

Second of Three

This is the second of three special editions that the *News Review* will publish this summer commemorating the 25th anniversary of Greenbelt. The first edition, which appeared on July 5, described the history of Greenbelt. The present edition and the next one deals with the history of Greenbelt's organizations and institutions — its city government, organized recreational groups, schools, churches, housing developments, cooperatives, and other civic activities. This history is not meant to be all-inclusive, as those organizations which are now defunct or inactive are not included. Also excluded are some groups which have limited historical significance.

was elected in September 1939. During this formative period, the council made use of a charter proviso in appointing as town manager Roy S. Braden, who also represented the Federal landlord as community manager for the Farm Security Administration (FSA).

In hiring the members of his staff, Braden continued the policy of utilizing FSA employees whose jobs dealt with Greenbelt. His private secretary, Winfield McCamy, became town clerk; an administrative assistant, Wallace F. Mabey, became town director of public safety, and an FSA accountant became town treasurer.

These dual roles led to some confusion, but also provided certain economies. During emergency periods there was a pooling of manpower. Town employees, for example, were used to haul coal and Federal workers to remove garbage.

This dual relationship continued until July 1946 when the jobs of town manager and community manager were divorced. There was also a

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Published every Thursday by Greenbelt
Cooperative Publishing Assn., Inc.
Greenbelt, Maryland

Delivered each week to every home
in Greenbelt

Thursday, August 9, 1962

separation of other functions. Affected were such personnel as Mrs. Mary Jane Kinzer who had been serving the town as educational director in charge of kindergarten, adult education, and social welfare in addition to being the Federal Government's (FPHA) chief in charge of tenant selection, and Angus McGregor who was FPHA's supervisor of landscaping and grounds as well as the town's acting director of public works. Following the split in functions, the town offices were moved downstairs — into the space adjacent to the bank — where they stayed until the Government sold the project in 1953.

Town Finances

One of the unique features of Greenbelt's early government was the fact that about 80 percent of the town's revenues came in the form of Federal payments in lieu of property taxes. This arrangement was necessitated by the fact that the Federal Government owned almost all the land in Greenbelt and its property could not constitutionally be taxed by a municipality. Each year the actual amount paid by the Federal Government was determined through bargaining conferences of representatives of the Federal agency and the town officials. The veto exercised by the Federal Government in determining the volume of Greenbelt's municipal expenditures thus led to much controversy.

One of the first tiffs arose over the refusal of FSA in 1942 to underwrite the deficits of the municipal hospital. In the following years, there was a running dispute over whether the Federal Government should approve the setting up of reserves in the town budget to cover replacement of Federally-owned property on lease or loan to the city. When a surplus building was obtained for a youth center, the Federal Government refused to authorize more than \$1,000 a year for its upkeep and maintenance. In 1951, Public Housing Administration (PHA) refused to approve use of its payments for the rescue squad or the newly-created welfare department. And similar action in the following year with respect to the kindergarten led to the city's decision to discontinue the school.



This is the famous cartoon appearing in the June 14, 1946 *Cooperator* celebrating the separation of town functions from Federal functions. Still to come was Greenbelt's unshackling from Federal ownership.

The climax came in April 1953 when the city attempted to force PHA payments by halting garbage collection services for the still Federally-owned apartments. The issue at dispute this time was whether the basis for PHA payments should be the county's assessed valuation of the apartment properties or PHA's evaluation.

Needless to say, the city won few of these disputes, and it was with a great sigh of relief that the community greeted PHA's withdrawal from the city. Nevertheless, it was recognized by many that the Federal payments in lieu of taxes enabled the city to provide many services that otherwise it would not have been able to afford. A full-time police and fire department, a kindergarten, a library, a full-time public health officer and nurse, and a well-rounded recreation program with paid supervisors were some of the services that few other Maryland municipalities could match. In June 1951, the city took advantage of a charter provision to initiate its own bus service from Greenbelt to Berwyn.

Economies

With the sale of the project, the community now had to depend on its own tax resources to finance the services its citizens had become accustomed to. It is true that in the transfer PHA dedicated to the city many valuable facilities and buildings, including the roadways, the water-distribution system (later dedicated to the Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission), the community building, the sewage disposal plant, the swimming pool, the lake area and picnic grounds, athletic fields, warehouses, 17 small parks and playgrounds, and certain public road easements.

But at the same time the city was faced with many additional costs. It had to perform major construction and repair work and to provide insurance and maintenance for many of these facilities, the costs of which were formerly borne by PHA. The city also faced the prospect of paying rent for the fire and police department building and the city administration offices, which it had previously occupied free.

Following are the budgeted expenditures, assessed valuation, and real property tax rates for the City of Greenbelt since the Federal Government withdrew entirely from the city.

Year	Budgeted expenditures	Assessed valuation	Tax rate per \$100 assessed valuation
1955	\$324,399	\$7,035,150	\$1.71
1956	332,786	7,163,475	1.68
1957	330,259	7,425,665	1.66
1958	260,802 1/	7,787,020	1.57
1959	263,296	7,963,400	1.61
1960-61 2/	286,797	9,112,970	1.60
1961-62	318,719	9,195,500	1.77
1962-63	316,385	9,762,740	1.50

1/ Starting with 1958, water and sanitary sewer service provided by Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission and no longer reflected in city budget.

2/ Starting with 1960, budgeted expenditures are for fiscal years ending on June 30, though tax rate is for calendar year.



This is a 1948 photograph of the first council meeting attended by Charles T. McDonald after his appointment as town manager. Left to right: Councilwoman Elizabeth Harrington; Councilman Allen D. Morrison; Mrs. Francis Stouffer, Public Health Nurse; Mrs. Winfield McCamy, Town Clerk; Mayor Thomas C. Canning; McDonald; Councilman Frank Lastner; and Councilman David Granahan.

In order to produce economies and reduce the tax rate, which was one of the highest in Prince Georges County, the services provided by the city were given a close scrutiny in hope that greater dependence could be placed upon county facilities.

As a result of this review, the budget for the calendar year 1955 eliminated two duplicative services for which the taxpayers had been paying taxes to both the city and the county. The first was the library which had been a city-supported activity since its inception in June 1939. It was integrated into the Prince Georges County Memorial Library system on July 1, 1955. The other was the city-financed Greenbelt Fire Department which was converted into a volunteer fire department. This move made the fire department, together with the local rescue squad, eligible to receive county and State financial support.

Another economy move led to the elimination of a full-time public health nurse. In addition, the garbage and trash collection service was dropped as a budget item and put on a service fee basis, thus excluding it from the tax rate. Through these efforts, the city was able to bring the tax rate down from \$2.14 per \$100 assessed valuation in 1954 to \$1.71 in 1955.

Building Program

In 1959 the city embarked upon a building program. For many years there had been a great need for a recreation building, a volunteer fire department and rescue squad building, and a municipal office building.

In June 1959, the city secured initial funds for the building program by selling the Community Building

to Prince Georges County Board of Education for \$260,000. In September 1959, the voters approved a referendum calling for a \$200,000 long-term loan or bond issue to provide the additional financing needed to construct all three buildings.

The next two years saw the completion of both the volunteer fire department and rescue squad building and the recreation building. Plans for the municipal office building are still on the drawing boards.

Over the years, the city charter has undergone few changes. Up to the passage of the home rule amendment to the Maryland State Constitution in the November 1954 election, any changes in the Greenbelt city charter had to be approved by

the State legislature. Currently, changes can be made by the city council, provided citizens do not petition for a referendum.

In May 1960 the first major charter changes, outside of salary increases for councilmen, under the home rule amendment were adopted. One revision provided for the establishment of a three-man personnel board to advise the council on personnel administration and to conduct hearings for employees who are removed by the city manager. Another change required that bids be received on material, supplies, or contractual services amounting to over \$1,000. Other changes clarified the limits to which the council can interfere in administrative matters.

POLICE AND FIRE DEPARTMENTS

At the outset, the police and fire department functions in Greenbelt were combined under the supervision of a director of public safety. Fire equipment was manned by police department and maintenance department personnel who received special fire-fighting training. The Federal Government maintained the equipment and paid the men for calls. In 1945, the town government took over the payment of the firemen. Up to the time that PHA sold the project, the police and fire department activities were housed in a building at the center (now occupied by Greenbelt Realty Co.).

POLICE DEPARTMENT

In 1938, the police department consisted of three employees: George Panagoulis, Albert "Buddy" Attick, and Yale B. Huffman. By 1951 there were four full-time and two

part-time policemen, plus two clerk-operators. During the next decade the department expanded to six full-time policemen plus four clerk-operators, thus affording Greenbelters 24-hour service. Greenbelt was originally unique among Prince George County communities in that it had a full-time police force and was not as dependent on county police for protection as other areas.

A noteworthy event in the department's history was the incorporation in January 1945 of its police cruiser in the county's 3-way radio network. Calls went from the Greenbelt police station to the Hyattsville county office which in turn sent messages to the cruiser. Eventually this system proved inadequate and in November 1952, a 2-way radio system was adopted which permitted direct communication between the switchboard in Greenbelt and patrol cars.

Fire Department and Rescue Squad

The first fire equipment in Greenbelt was furnished by the Federal Government in 1936 for use as fire-fighting protection during the construction phase. During this period the Ford 500 gallon per minute (gpm) pumper was housed in an abandoned barn.

Nobel V. Rush, an employee of the Federal Government, was the department's first fire chief. During this early period the fire department was part-paid, with three 2-man platoons on 8 hour shifts. The rest of the fire-fighting force was made up of personnel from the guard force employed by the Government and workers on the project.

When a fire was reported, the siren was sounded and all employees responded. This same siren is in use today on the stack of the heating plant on Research Road.

In 1937, the fire alarm box system was installed throughout the city. Any signal received from this source sounded a coded air horn, designating the area involved. The workers responded either to the fire area or directly to the fire house. This fire alarm system was discontinued in September of 1960 when the new fire department building was opened.

During the World War II years, the firefighting personnel were assisted by a group of volunteers who were trained under the Civil Defense Auxiliary Firefighter Training program. This group was paid at the rate of 75c to \$1 per call. In 1942, the city purchased a used 500 gpm pumper, which was maintained by the Federal Government. In 1945, the Ford 500 gpm pumper was dedicated to the city.

In November, 1946, the Greenbelt Volunteer Rescue Squad was organized by Dick Bates, Robert Gray and Warner Steinley. They pooled their money to purchase for \$1,000 a 1936 Buick ambulance from the Brentwood Rescue Squad. These men, and the volunteers from the fire department group, raised funds by solicitation, dances and carnivals, in order to maintain the necessary equipment. Many times they had to pay for gasoline out of their own pockets to continue in service.

Volunteer Group

In February 1955, the local fire department was converted into a volunteer organization. Most of the members of the fire department were also members of the rescue squad and when the city relinquished control of the fire department, the two organizations combined to form the present organization. As such, it was admitted to the Prince Georges County Volunteer Firemen's Association and later, in June 1955, to the Maryland State Fireman's Association and the

State Rescue Squad Association.

These actions made the volunteer group eligible to share in the yield from the county fire tax in the 21st Election District. This fire tax, which had been paid by the people of Greenbelt, (about \$7,000 per year) had formerly gone to the 3 other fire departments in the 21st district. Now, in addition to the fire tax share, Greenbelt's volunteer group also receives \$3,000 per year from the county commissioners. Another benefit which accrued to the volunteer organization was inclusion as a part of the county-wide central controlled fire and ambulance dispatching service, which included mutual-aid assistance - a rarity during the early years when there were boundary jurisdiction disputes. Today there are no boundaries for fire or rescue service anywhere in the county or surrounding areas; the dispatching is all coordinated through the Prince Georges County Fire Control Board in Hyattsville, which can be reached from anywhere in the county by calling one number, 864-1122.

When the present Greenbelt Volunteer Fire Department & Rescue Squad, Inc., was formed, the city dedicated the two original 500 gpm pumpers to it. The group purchased a Class A 750 gpm American LaFrance pumper which was delivered on Christmas Eve, 1957. The personnel training requirements were met when 23 men completed the 60 hour course of instruction in Firemanship conducted by the Fire Service Extension of the University of Maryland. This course and the Standard First-Aid Course is a basic requirement for all men before they become "Active" members of the department.

A new Cadillac ambulance was purchased in March 1958, from funds received through the annual ambulance club drive. A 1952 Pontiac ambulance had previously been purchased from the same funds. Since the laws prohibit the use of fire tax funds for an ambulance, the annual ambulance club drive insures having an ambulance "at ready" for service to the community.

New Building

The new fire department building located on Crescent rd. between St. Hugh's rectory and Parkway was completed in September, 1960 at a cost of \$146,000. It was officially dedicated to the fire department by the city on July 4, 1961. Chairman of the building committee was Earl Thomas, for whom the lounge of the new building was dedicated.

The new building is an 8-stall garage type front with a work shop on the end. The rear portion contains an

8-man double-decker bunk room, locker and wash room, lounge, office, conference training, communications and heating rooms. The apparatus room houses 2 Class A pumpers, 2 ambulances, a utility truck, a reserve pumper (the old Ford 500 gpm pumper), a bus for the majorettes, and space for expanding a bay to accommodate an aerial ladder truck in the foreseeable future.

Additional furnishings in the building amounting to \$12,000 were paid from separate funds raised by carnivals, raffles and dances.

The building is equipped with a complete fire detection system, which, in addition to having a "local" alarm also is connected to a master fire locator via a leased line to the County Fire Control Board. The youth center building is also connected to the master fire locator via an underground line installed by the city, and other major building owners are considering similar action for their own protection.

The major part of the installation in the fire department and youth center buildings was done by the volunteers, with work totaling well over 300 man-hours.

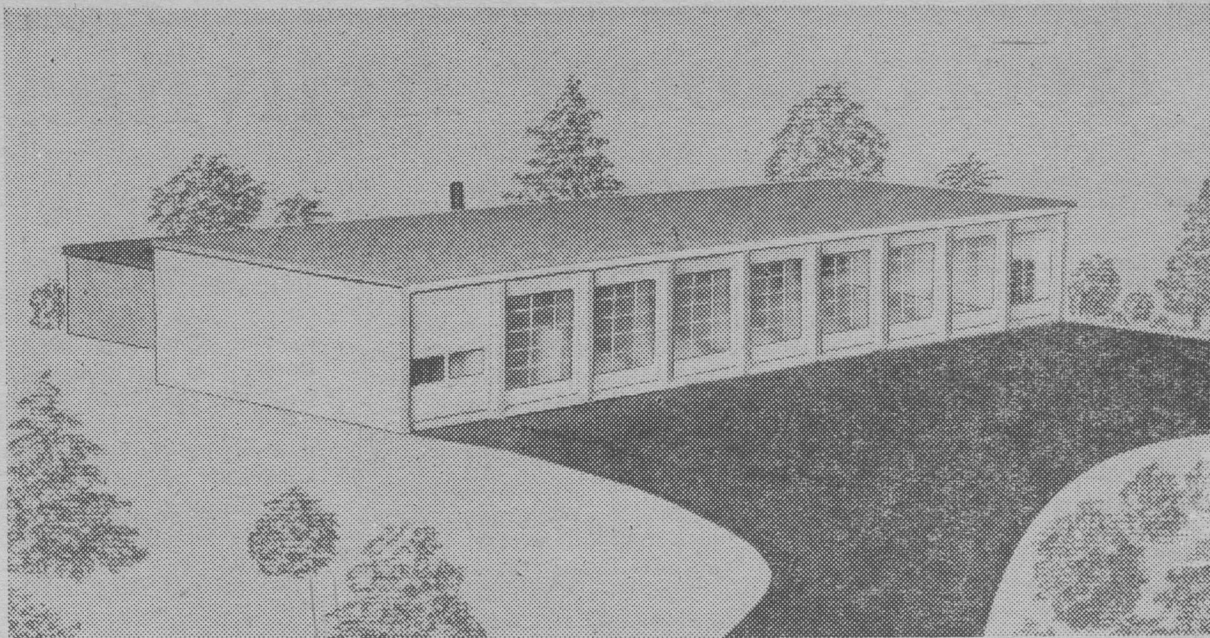
Affiliates of the Department:

Ladies Auxiliary: The Auxiliary was organized in 1955 and shortly thereafter became active in the Ladies Auxiliary to the Prince Georges County Volunteer Firemen's Association and also in the Ladies Auxiliary to the Maryland State Firemen's Association.

The kitchen at the 'old fire house' was approximately 8' x 10' but the ladies carried on many successful fund-raising affairs by operating from their small domain. The completion of new quarters brought to them one of the most modern kitchens in the area. They have added over \$2500.00 to the original amount authorized for use in the kitchen area.

The profits derived from fund-raising events are used to purchase needed items in the building as well as added equipment for the ambulances and fire trucks. The ladies have made it a yearly project to turn over to the men a cash contribution to be used within the department and are on call to assist in any manner possible.

They actively support the County Auxiliary Mary Baker Memorial Fund and the State Auxiliary Bessie Marshall Hospital Fund. Both of these funds are maintained for use of firemen who suffer an illness not related to active service as a volunteer fireman. The department carries insurance on the men during any participation on active calls or regularly scheduled events but the Auxiliaries felt the need to provide additional



Architect's drawing of new Greenbelt Volunteer Fire Department and Rescue Squad Building completed in September 1960.

sick leave benefits above the insurance.

Majorettes: A subsidiary of the Ladies Auxiliary, still winning trophies at parades. Many former members have formed their own groups and have distinguished themselves in this field, viz. Ann Walker Bittenbender, College Park National Champs; and Nancy Kurth Markley, Greenbelt Stepperettes.

Individual Awards

Dr. Howard M. Bubert Award presented by the Maryland State Rescue Association for outstanding act of heroism - to Joseph D'Agostino in 1957 and Joseph O'Loughlin in 1960.

Red Cross Award for heroism: - Joseph O'Loughlin, 1961.

Md. State Firemen's Ass'n Fire Prevention Bureau Award for outstanding contribution to fire prevention in the community - to Robert W. Mogel in 1958.

Scholarship to the University of Maryland for a 4-year Course in Fire Protection Engineering - to Tommy Klem, a former junior fireman — awarded at High Point High School June, 1962.

Department Awards

National Fire Protection Association Fire Prevention Contest Award for first place, State of Maryland — 1957.

T. W. Venemann Trophy presented by Md. State Fireman's Ass'n. in 1958 for best fire prevention program in state competition.

Robert Bruce Criswell Trophy, in 1956 for Most Active in Fire Training in Prince Georges County.

Governor's Fire Prevention Trophy. First winner of this trophy in 1961 for best float in line of parade, annual State convention, Ocean City.

Early Meetings Were Lively

How was Greenbelt in the past? Here one of News Review's most famous columnists, A. C. Long, reminisces in an article appearing in the paper on October 6, 1955.

Before Maryland legislature made it a city, Greenbelt was a lusty, brawling town. Folks were alive and dynamic. They attacked (and that's the word for it) community problems and civic events with enterprising vigor. Newcomers won't believe this but oldtimers will remember some real spirited town meetings — not like the forty or fifty mild citizens who docilely asked the candidate for council a few polite general questions at the Lions Club sponsored meeting.

I remember one council race where there was so much feeling between supporters of two slates of candidates that wives and husbands stopped talking (Well, at least the husbands did). One friend of mine got so incensed with a local insurance agent over this election that he cancelled his auto insurance. Then he jumped in his car to dash off to a court political rally and banged into another car — without insurance protection, of

course.

At one hot GCS membership meeting a leading citizen was punched smack in the nose by another leading citizen, who at this particular meeting was leading with his right. And husbands and wives fought over their voting cards. I don't mean quarreled, I mean fought. Only a few of these brave men were able to vote, for it proved the truth of the female of the species being more deadly than the male.

On another occasion we packed council chambers when public hearings were held on charges against a public official. And they stayed packed until one and two in the morning with good citizens listening avidly to charges and counter charges and details of high life in official circles.

Oh! those were the days before prosperity and television when hardy folk lived dangerously in a wild and wooley Greenbelt. Just ask some of the oldtimers. Give them a drink or two and their reminiscences will be even more interesting — there's plenty of old skeletons in old Greenbelt closets.

Did You Know?

That among the charter members of American Legion Post No. 136 were present-day Greenbelters Allen D. Morrison, Matthew M. Fontaine, Ray S. Bochert, Henley D. Goode, Jennings B. Craig, and Charles Friedman.

That a charter member of the Young People's Association organized in December 1937 was Tom Pos-ton, well-known TV actor.

That Greenbelt's first deputized police officer was George Panagoulis, now County Chief of Police.

That in April 1938 Frank Lastner was elected president of the Greenbelt Citizen's Association, the first of many posts he was to hold.

That Mrs. Theodora Murray was elected in January 1938 first president of the Mother's Club, set up as a pre-school child study group?

Recreational Activities

Recreation Department

Greenbelt's Recreation Department began functioning in September 1938. Shortly afterwards, it had three full time recreation directors, supplemented by 12 additional workers in the summer time. Life guards at the pool and attendants at the lake, tennis courts, athletic fields and swimming pool made up this group. During the school day, a physical education program run by the staff was carried on in the elementary school five times a week for each class from the second to seventh grade.

The spring and summer months of 1939 saw great advances in the town's recreation programs in which the Federal government, the town government, and the citizenry participated. Four composition and four clay tennis courts were completed, and fees of 20 cents for adults (children free) before 3 p.m. and 30 cents after 3 p.m. were set. Handball courts were constructed at the end of the swimming pool. Twelve flat-bottomed new boats were made available at Greenbelt Lake for 20 cents an hour. Three new softball fields and one new baseball diamond with back stop were constructed with lights for night playing.

But the big event of 1939 was the opening of the swimming pool which would replace the lake as a gathering place for swimmers. The pool was opened on Memorial Day and the charge at first was 35 cents per adult admission or 10 cents if tickets were purchased in quantities of 50 or more. Children under 16 paid 20 cents per admission or five cents purchased in quantities of 50 tickets or more; children under 6 went free. In 1940 a family season pass cost \$6, and an individual season pass was \$3.50. Today a family pass costs \$20 and an individual season pass costs \$12.

Outdoor Activities

From the first softball and baseball were Greenbelt's favorite summer sports. Nearly everyone engaged in one or the other, and there were the Athletic Club's block teams, a church league, and teams sponsored by the town. Men and women's teams competed in county and state championships. The Greenbelt Representative softball team (men) won its first Prince Georges County Championship under the direction of Ben Goldfaden. The Representative Baseball team (men) were County Champs in 1946.

An early brochure of the recreation department reported that among the indoor activities conducted were basketball, badminton, volley-ball, table tennis, shuffleboard, dancing, tumbling, calisthenics, deck tennis, dodge ball, and group games. Outdoor activities included baseball, softball, tennis, swimming, boating, fishing, arts and crafts, horseshoes, archery, hiking, playground activities, touch football, soccer, handball and track and field. Water carnivals were a popular attraction. The Easter Egg hunt and other holiday programs were directed by the department.

The Federal Government originally provided three large playgrounds, completely equipped with slides, swings, jungle bars, overhead bars, and trapezes for school-age children. In addition, there were thirteen small play units for pre-school children in the inner courts, with small slides, overhead bars, and sand boxes. Swings were later added. For many years the recreation department operated summer-supervised playground programs for tots seven years and under. In 1962 there were 22 playgrounds in the city, with the prospect of several more to be set up in the new areas of town. A popular feature of many play areas are the black-top basketball courts.

The recreation report for the 1940 summer season showed that the swimming pool had 45,486 patrons, 31,169 had used the tennis courts, 2,678 had used the boats on the lake, and 134 fishing permits had been issued. The summer program also included swimming lessons.

In the early days, many special events such as Block Halloween celebrations and adult gatherings were held. As the city grew, more activities moved to the Community Building.

According to the town's first manager, Roy S. Braden, the recreation department program was the largest for a town of 3,000 inhabitants in the country. His favorite saying was "If you hire one good recreation director, he can take the place of two policemen." A county boy scout official paid tribute to the program by saying that it was easy, at the start of the camping season, to pick out the boys from Greenbelt, as they were browner, taller, and better developed than the boys of comparative ages from other localities in the vicinity.

Youth Activities

The recreation department has always lent assistance to the youth center idea. Back in 1944 the staff worked with the Adult Advisory Board and the teen committee in planning the first "Drop-Inn" located in the old fire department and in securing the second "Drop Inn"—a surplus public housing demonstration building. On April 8, 1948, the youth center was incorporated in the program of the recreation department with Miss Eileen Mudd, now Mrs. Peter Labukas, as Director of the Center. With this inclusion members of the recreation department were assigned to direct all programs of the canteen with assistance from volunteer parents. Prior to this, staff members supervised the afternoon program while, except for special affairs, volunteer parents conducted the night session. Programs in the Drop Inn included photography, knitting and dancing clubs, regular dance nights, bowling, hayrides and the addition of such outside activities as horseshoes and badminton.

The recreation department continued to supervise the youth center programs when it operated at the Community Building, and also directed the teen club dances held at North End School. Skating in the Community Building was added to the program at this time.

The new Youth Center building opened its doors on December 31, 1960. A varied program, including skating for elementary and high school students, hayrides, out-of-town trips, etc., in addition to regular dancing, arts and crafts, special dances and parties, and sports is offered. With the opening, the building became the center of all recreational activities. The recreation director and his staff moved their headquarters from the city offices to the Youth Center. The facilities are used to carry on programs for all age groups, such as teen club activities, chess, band, slimnastics for women, sports night for men, public meetings, lectures, Twin Pines family night, the summer French program (FLAG), etc. The Golden Age Club formed by the recreation department in 1957 meets weekly at the building. At present, there are 33 members. In addition to the club's regular programs, special excursions are planned throughout the year.

Current Programs

The 1962 summer recreation program includes many new activities. They are the Teen Theatre, Children's Drama group, adult swimming courses, day camp, and an enlarged service program by the teens. The swimming team which was organized in 1957 with eight members now numbers forty. 750 youngsters participated in the first two sessions of the 1962 summer swimming program. By the end of July, 250 teens engaged in varied programs, 72 boys played in the Babe Ruth League, and an average of 70 children per day participated in the arts and crafts program. The teen softball leagues are now in their second year.

The summer of 1962 saw the revival of the water carnivals and the tennis program. For many years the poor condition of the courts prohibited their use. In July the courts were resurfaced.

Greenbelt's recreation program has been in sharp contrast with that of most other Maryland municipalities, in which public recreation often is not carried on by the municipal government or is carried on only to the extent of maintenance of a park and a few playgrounds. Greenbelt is the only city in Prince Georges County with a recreation department. The department has a cooperative arrangement with the County Recreation Department in which the county provides special services to Greenbelt upon request. Such programs have included summer playground programs, teen directors, arts and crafts specialists, ballet classes, and adult dance programs.

Through the years, the recreation department has encouraged citizens to develop recreation programs. The department has lent a helping hand in the organization of Greenbelt majorette groups, Adult Theatre, and many athletic leagues such as Little League, Boys Club, and Lassies.

Recreation Directors

Vincent C. Holochwost —
Sept. 1938 - June 1942
Benjamin P. Goldfaden —
June 1942 - March 1944
Helena Knauer —
March 1944 - April 1945
Vincent C. Holochwost —
April 1945 - Sept. 1946
Benjamin P. Goldfaden —
Sept. 1946 - Sept. 1947
Eileen (Mudd) Labukas —
Oct. 1947 - Feb. 1948
Samuel S. Fox —
Feb. 1948 - Aug. 1951
James Donald Wolfe —
March 1952 - June 1956
Warren G. Leddick —
Nov. 1956 - March 1962
James A. Wooldridge —
June 1962 -

Greenbelt Youth Center

A community building for Greenbelt's meetings and indoor recreation was as old a proposal as the town itself. After the town's population had doubled without additional recreational facilities, the problem became acute. Many organizations had been barred from use of the Center School because of lack of space. The theater, the reception room at GCS office, the American Legion Home, the Athletic clubhouse, and private homes had all been pressed into service to capacity.

The local drug store had been serving as the sole congregating place for teen-age boys and girls until the Athletic Club opened its clubhouse to this group one night a week in September 1944. A town council proposal in the spring of 1944 for a combination field house and recreation building at the edge of Braden Field failed to materialize. One group of youngsters talked about a soda bar to be built on the balcony roof over what is now the tobacco shop.

In November 1944, the town council called a meeting of interested parents, teenagers and the recreation department staff to discuss the possibility of opening a canteen for the boys and girls. An Advisory Board consisting of five parents was set up, the teen-agers of the town elected five representatives for their planning committee, and the recreation department was asked to meet with these two groups to outline plans for the opening and operation of a teen-age center to be located in the basement of the local firehouse (now occupied by Greenbelt Realty Co.).

First Drop Inn

This space, about 1600 square feet, was renovated, a snack-bar constructed, tile floors installed, and extra entrances cut out, and on December 23, 1944, the Greenbelt Youth Center was formally opened. All teen-agers between the ages of 14 to 18 inclusive were invited to become charter members of the youth organization. The name "THE DROP-INN" was selected as the winner in the "Name-the-Youth-Center Contest". Marilyn Maryn, a former resident and active among the youth center organizers, wrote an original poem dedicating the building and its program to wholesome fun for all and an opportunity for youth leadership. These two ideals have formed the foundation of the youth center policy.

The first teen-age committee of the youth center consisted of Leonard Lemire, chairman, Mary Jane Townsend, Teddy Fox, Joanne Therrell and Robert Link. Mrs. Leon Benefiel headed the Adult Advisory Board which included Mrs. Hartford Downs, Mrs. Lillian Mitchell, Mrs. Harry Fleisher and Mrs. John Murray. These groups have continued in much the same manner as when originally organized, to govern the center's activities.

With the end of the war and the need for a larger space, the council and the Advisory Board, assisted by Charles M. Cormack, Sr., community manager for P.H.A., put in a bid for a surplus public housing demonstration building. More than \$5,000 was raised from a car raffle, two community dances, a bingo party, and



Pictured above is the surplus public housing demonstration building acquired after the war which was converted into a Drop-Inn for teen-agers. It continued in existence from 1947 to 1954.

a house-to-house membership drive. With these funds a building was purchased, cut in half and transported to Greenbelt, from what is now the site of the Langley Park Hot Shoppe, assembled, reinforced and equipped.

Second Drop Inn

Open house on May 9, 1947, to which the community was invited, marked the opening of the teen-agers' new home, which consisted of a library, snack-bar, game room, and lounge. This was a marked improvement over the one room center in which they started, and with the larger building a more extensive program was begun. Another landmark in the history of the youth center was the incorporation of the center in the program of the recreation department by council ordinance on April 5, 1948. Miss Eileen Mudd, now Mrs. Peter Labukas and still a Greenbelt resident, was appointed through the department as director of the center. On this same date council adopted ordinance #166 which formally established a Youth Center Advisory Board consisting of five members appointed by council to assist the recreation department in devising rules and regulations regarding the supervision, operation and direction of the youth center programs.

The Drop Inn successfully operated for the next six years. Two monthly awards, the Outstanding Member Cup and the Outstanding Parents Cup, were introduced in the fall of 1948 and proved to be a boost to the program and to the morale of the members.

Early in 1954 it was learned that the land on which the Drop-Inn was situated was to be sold. The condition of the building after six years of hard use made it impracticable to attempt to move it to another site. The Greenbelt Citizens' Association organized a Youth Center Planning Committee and Beverley Fonda was made acting chairman. The first meeting of this committee was held on February 10, 1954 with representatives present from various organizations in town. With the help of this Planning Committee the city council arranged to use the gymnasium in the Center School for the operation of the youth center.

Youth Center

On Saturday, September 25, 1954 the youth center was formally opened in its new location, under the name of the Greenbelt Youth Center. Mrs. Helen Frady and Mrs. Ruth Birdseye were in charge of the center and were assisted part of the time by Mrs. Evelyn Boggs. A roller skating program was initiated and proved to be quite successful, but attendance dropped considerably, probably because the public school

building had a decidedly different atmosphere from the Drop-Inn.

In the fall of 1959 a second teen club was started at the North End School under the direct supervision of the Recreation Superintendent, Warren Leddick with Joseph O'Loughlin serving as Center Director. At this time a split in the Senior and Junior High age groups was reinstated with the Junior High groups meeting at the North End School. It was during this period that the teen-agers unofficially adopted the name of TEEN CLUB for their operation.

During the next several years, while the teen clubs were operating in the school buildings, the members of the Advisory Board spoke before civic organizations and churches in the area to promote and present their ideas and plans for a youth center building. It was largely through the efforts of this Board that a referendum was held in September 1959 to raise additional money through the sale of bonds by the city for the construction of a youth center building, as well as a fire department building, and a municipal building.

After the referendum had passed, the Board worked with the city council and the architects, Satterlee and Smith, designing the type of building that would best meet the needs of the program and still stay within the budget limitations. The plans were completed early in 1960 and on March 8, 1960, bids from eleven contractors were opened at the city office. James L. Partello of Hyattsville, Maryland, submitted a low bid of \$132,000. A groundbreaking ceremony was held on May 1, 1960, with Mayor Alan Kistler turning the first shovel-full of dirt.

New Building

While the building was under construction, the Advisory Board was busy selecting furnishings and equipment. Mrs. Paula Sparrow of Modern Designs, Inc., was retained as interior decorator. The Advisory Board and the city shared the cost of a fire-detection system for the building which, when activated, would automatically turn off all ventilating and air-conditioning equipment and send an alarm to the Greenbelt Fire Department as well as to the county board at Hyattsville. This system was installed through the volunteer efforts of the local firemen who spent hundreds of hours of their own time doing the work under the direction of Robert Mogel. The furnishings and equipment for the new building were purchased largely with money from the Youth Center Building Fund, which was raised through the years by the Advisory Board largely from proceeds from the Annual Labor Day Festivals.

Some of the equipment was donated by various civic organizations.

The new Youth Center formally opened with a gala New Year's Eve Dance on December 31, 1960. It was attended by more than 200 members and guests and many city officials and notables.

On February 6, 1961 an ordinance was passed by the city council officially naming the new building the GREENBELT YOUTH CENTER. On March 6, 1961, another ordinance was passed by the council changing the name of the Youth Center Advisory Board to the Teen Club Advisory Board. As a result of this change a Teen Club was formed out of the previous organization known as the Youth Center.

The dedication ceremony for the new building was held on Sunday, September 3, 1961, with Kenneth Powell, president of the Teen Club, acting as master of ceremonies. An address was given by Dr. Albin O. Kuhn, Executive Vice-President of the University of Maryland.

During its first year in the new Youth Center the Teen Club suffered with growing pains and programming problems but by the end of the year the operation, under the supervision of Warren Leddick and Joseph O'Loughlin, was stabilized. A varied program, including skating, hayrides, out-of-town trips, etc., in addition to regular dancing, arts and crafts, special dances and parties, sports, etc., is being carried out.

In September of 1961 the Teen Club stocked and opened the snack bar in the Youth Center and this has proved to be a very profitable venture. At the present time there are 365 members in the Teen Club.

Advisory Board Members, 1955-1962

Mr. Beverley G. Fonda
Mr. Edward A. Burgoon
Mrs. Jean Mogel
Mrs. Jesse Walter
Mrs. Janet Parker
Mr. Frederic Birdseye
Mrs. Marie Kistler

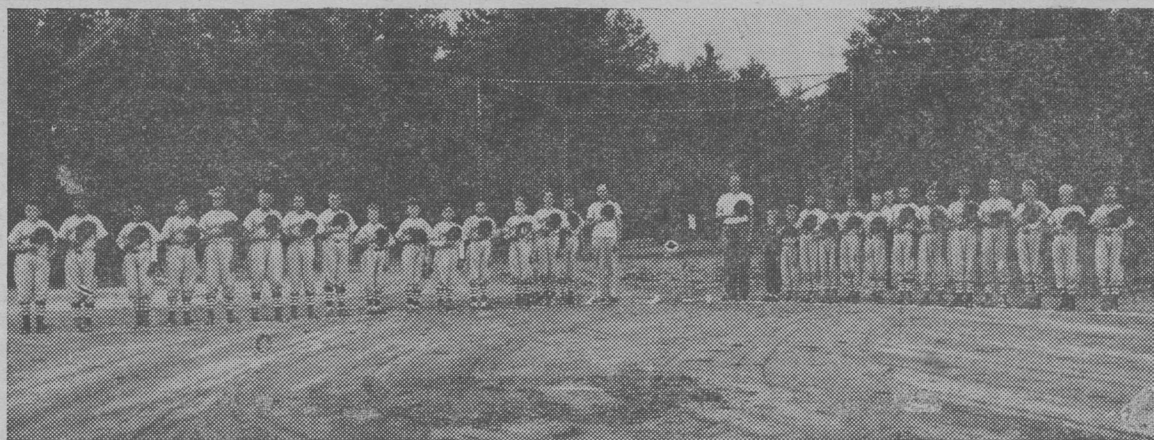
BOYS CLUB

The Greenbelt Boys Club, the first in the county, was organized in 1948 through the efforts of George Eshbaugh, Tony Baker (the club's first president), Merle Frady, and Lillburn Lee.

Father-son drives and July 4 carnivals at the lake raised the necessary funds to sustain the club's baseball, football, and basketball teams. The club started with approximately 25 youngsters.

Near the end of the second year Ben Goldfaden acted as counselor-coordinator between the Boys Club and the Recreation Department.

Boxing was a big activity in the fourth year, as a result of a Green-



Opening day ceremonies in July 1951 when Little League Baseball first came to Greenbelt.

belt resident winning \$50,000 in a quiz contest. \$1,000 worth of boxing equipment was donated to the club. The club serves a year round sports program for boys ranging in age from 9 to 18.

In 1962, 120 boys played football, 40 played basketball, and 20 were on the baseball team. Walter "Bud" Dean is the current president of the Boys Club, which is affiliated with the Prince Georges Boys Club.

LITTLE LEAGUE

Little League Baseball was organized in the spring of 1951 by Recreation Director Sam Fox. William Moore was the first Little League Commissioner.

Little League has been administered by a small group of community sport-minded men who both coach the teams as well as assume the task of keeping it solvent by obtaining sponsorship of the teams by businesses and organizations.

Since the beginning, all games have been played on the Little League baseball grounds, now known as McDonald Field, a completely fenced park especially designed for little league play and located to the rear of 7 court Southway. It now has become a noteworthy landmark for Greenbelt along the Washington-Baltimore Parkway. The diamond is equipped and maintained by the city. Bats, balls, and uniforms are provided by the sponsors.

Starting with four teams, the league was expanded to six teams in 1952 and then to the current eight teams composed of boys between the ages of 8 to 12. There are also four teams in the minor league. Walter "Bud" Dean is the president and William Clarke, Little League Commissioner.

4-H CLUBS

4-H is relatively new to Greenbelt. Perhaps this is because 4-H was formerly limited to rural areas. Now however, it has spread to the suburbs and cities where it is being enthusiastically received by girls and boys from the ages of 9 to 21.

Greenbelt's first club, the "Cloverettes" was started four years ago by Mrs. Harvey Geller. Of the five little girls who came to the first meeting, four are still active - though not so little - members. Club membership has grown to eleven. Mrs. Clifford Simonson, impressed by the beautiful handiwork of these girls, started her own club, the "Cloverbuds" two years ago. She has 13 girls in her club. James Cassels is the leader of the "Shamrocks", Greenbelt's only boys 4-H Club.

4-H members elect their own officers, run their own meetings, and work on projects such as cooking, sewing, gardening, and electricity. They also compete for ribbons and prizes in county events such as the Style Review, County Fair and Demonstrations.

LASSIE LEAGUE

The Lassie League, an outgrowth of the Pony Tail League, was officially formed in 1961, although the league had been operating the previous year. Walter "Bud" Dean, with the cooperation of the recreation department, organized the league which is affiliated with Lassie Leaguers, Inc., a national organization. Greenbelt officers are Ruth Miller, President, Peg Baldwin, Secretary, Judy Boone, Treasurer, and Bud Dean, Commissioner.

There are four teams, the Athletics, Giants, Indians and Lions. The program, established to benefit girls from 9 to 15 years of age, provides good wholesome recreation under the guidance of adults through pre-summer and summer vacation months. Everyone in Lassie League is considered a star and is given fair and equal opportunity to play.

GREENBELT BOY SCOUTS

On December 15, 1937, the Greenbelt Citizens' Association voted to sponsor a boy scout troop in Greenbelt and a committee was appointed. As its first duty, the committee appointed Charles G. Pettit III as scoutmaster. The first meeting of Troop 202 was held on December 23

when nine boys joined and signed the original charter.

The troop became official on February 11, 1938, when Field Executive Hovey presented the troop with its charter and the committee and scoutmaster were sworn into office.

With the many outdoor facilities at hand, the troop from the start concentrated on overnight hikes and camping trips. The troop patterned its activities after those of the first Americans — the Indians — and became adept at making Indian objects — teepees, clothing, totem poles, tomahawks.

In November 1941 the Prince Georges Council of Boy Scouts leased from the government a tract of some fifty-sixty acres south of Greenbelt road for a camping area.

Scouting in Greenbelt is divided into three age groups: Cub Scouts, 8 to 11 years; Boy Scouts, 12-14 years; and Explorer Scouts, 14-16 years inclusive. There are at present six troops in Greenbelt: Cubs, Boy Scouts, and Explorers of 746, meeting at the Methodist Church, and Cubs, Boy Scouts, and Explorers of 202 meeting at the Community Church.

Greenbelt's two Neighborhood Commissioners are Ted Dalbow and Hayward Hunt.

GREENBELT GIRL SCOUTS

Greenbelt's girl scout program was started in December 1937 with one Brownie troop. By 1942, there were one Brownie troop and 4 Intermediate troops. In 1960 the number of girls in scouting in Greenbelt numbered 110. They were under the guidance of 20 adult leaders.

The Greenbelt girl scouts are affiliated with the County, State, National and International Girl Scout and Girl Guide Program. Greenbelt's neighborhood chairman is Anne Lucas; consultant is Evelyn Boggs; and organizer is Sally Blaine.

At present there are three troops; one Brownie, one Intermediate, and one Senior. They meet at the Methodist and Community Churches.

Educational Facilities

"The schools (Greenbelt) have enjoyed continuity of leadership, and their philosophy of education has had wide-spread influence on education in the surrounding community, and even throughout the county."

— *Town Planning Review*, Vol xx, No. 4, January 1950, page 357.

CENTER SCHOOL

When the Community Building (now Center Elementary School) opened its doors in October 1937, there were seven teachers and 24 youngsters enrolled the first day. The Community Building was constructed as part of the planned development of Greenbelt. It was centrally located within a half-mile distance of all homes and could be reached directly by paths and underpasses which protected the youngsters from traffic hazards.

The school has 12 classrooms, as well as a social room, school offices, faculty and health rooms, kindergarten, and a large combined gymnasium-auditorium. The building also houses the library, which, until July 1, 1955, was operated by the City of Greenbelt.

The building was originally owned and operated by the Federal Government which made the facilities available on a loan basis to Prince Georges County as an elementary school. Beginning in November 1948, the town government leased the Community Building from the Public Housing Administration for a nominal one dollar per year, and in turn received funds sufficient to operate the building from the County Board of Education. Under the new arrangement the town furnished custodial service and supervised operation and scheduling of the building, while heat, lights, repairs, and maintenance continued to be provided by PHA.

In February 1953, the building was dedicated by the Federal Government, along with other municipal facilities, to the city of Greenbelt. In 1959, the Community Building was sold to the Prince Georges County Board of Education for \$260,000.

Until the Community Building was sold, it remained the unquestionable focus of community life. In the early years it housed the churches on Sunday and provided recreational facilities during the week. The combination auditorium and gymnasium served as a meeting place for the Citizens' Association and other local organizations and provided a place for entertainments, stage shows, public forums, and debates. The classrooms were not only used for children, but also for adult education and vocational training.

As George A. Warner said in his book on *Greenbelt: The Cooperative Community*, "It (the school) was to become one of our best-loved buildings, for it was here that all segments of the citizenry were to meet, discuss their mutual problems, worship, study, and play."

With the construction of churches and other community facilities such as the Youth Center, the role of the building as a center of civic and recreation activities diminished.

Principals

Mrs. Catherine T. Reed	1937-43
Mrs. Elizabeth Fugitt	1943-52
Miss Hannah E. Long	1952-62
Mr. Ferdinand Cardano	1962-

NORTH END SCHOOL

The North End Elementary School was constructed to relieve the congestion in the Center School caused by the completion of 1,000 defense homes in 1941-42. Up to the time the additional homes were constructed, the total number of children attending the Center School averaged around 400. In 1943, after the new homes were constructed, attendance increased to 785 and the school had to go on double sessions. A temporary school was opened for kindergartners and first and second graders by converting a defense home at 53 Ridge.

The North End School, a two-story, white brick, L-shaped structure, was officially opened in the fall of 1945. It was built and furnished by the Federal Government, but operated by the Prince Georges County Board of Education which eventually purchased the school in June 1949.

There are ten classrooms, a kindergarten room, kitchen, music room, an infirmary, offices, and an auditorium. Nothing has been altered or added to the physical plant since 1945. The grounds, however, have been greatly improved. A new ballfield was added and the playground received a green bank around the edge of a belted forest. Individual flower gardens, which were placed next to the building, have afforded much experimentation in gardening techniques. The latest improvements include a large black top with marked off play areas and a parking space adjacent to the building.

Principals

Miss Rowena Whittaker	1945-48
Miss Thelma Smith	1948-54
Mrs. Maxine Grimm	1954-

GREENBELT JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL

Originally a Junior-Senior High School, the structure was begun in the spring of 1937 and completed some ten months later at a cost of \$142,000. The school was placed near

the western edge of town so that it might serve not only Greenbelt but also the surrounding area.

The original structure built by the Federal government housed eleven classrooms, domestic science, and industrial arts rooms. Because of limited funds, the architects had no opportunity to supply more than bare necessities. In 1940, Congress appropriated funds for the addition of a gymnasium and an auditorium, but shortly afterwards war controls were slapped on building materials. With the construction of 1,000 defense homes, funds were finally allotted in 1944 for the addition of a wing containing an office, seven classrooms, and a multi-purpose room at a cost of \$97,147.

Some 300 students enrolled when the school first opened, with more than 100 coming from Greenbelt. A gravel walk which ran through the beautiful woodland connected the west end of Greenbelt with the school. Since no roads traversed this path at that time (Edmonston Rd. was not yet completed), this route was absolutely free from traffic hazards.

In June 1949, the Prince Georges County Board of Education, which had been operating the school, purchased the building and land. In June 1951, the last senior high class graduated and the school was converted into a Junior High School. Until High Point opened its doors in 1954, Greenbelt senior high youngsters attended Northwestern High School. Allan Chotiner, who was principal of Greenbelt Junior High School, became High Point's first principal.

The need for additional classroom space led to the conversion of three Quonset huts into 10 temporary classrooms. A \$170,000 gymnasium-auditorium was added in 1953 and in December 1961 an annex was constructed and the temporary classrooms torn down.

Principals

Roland E. Sliker	1938 - 1941
C. Paul Barnhart	1941 - 1944
John P. Speicher	1944 - 1948
Michael Hernick	1948 - 1951
Allen I. Chotiner	1951 - 1954
Francis Furgang	1954 -

KINDERGARTEN

On September 28, 1938, Prince Georges County's first kindergarten opened in Greenbelt's Community Building with an enrollment of 49. The town council in July had voted an appropriation of \$6,000 for equipment and salary of a kindergarten teacher.

The kindergarten program, under-

written by the town government, embraced free and supervised play, organized games, storytelling, songs, rhythms, music appreciation, and conversation. In 1948, the program was placed under the direction of the school principals.

As the result of PHA's refusal to permit its payments to be used to support the kindergarten, the city decided to discontinue the kindergarten after June 1, 1952. Interested parents immediately formed a cooperative — Greenbelt Cooperative Kindergarten — to continue the services of the kindergarten. Both North End and Center School provide a kindergarten room free of charge, with the teachers paid by the parents. The classes are under the supervision of the Prince Georges County Board of Education.

NURSERY SCHOOL

The Greenbelt Cooperative Nursery School (now the Greenbelt Nursery School, Inc.) was organized by a group of parents with the aid and encouragement of Mrs. Mary Jane Kinzer, who was then the director of Greenbelt Family Services. Supplies were obtained by means of a loan of \$150 from the town government, a teacher was engaged, and at 9 a.m. on April 15, 1941, the school opened its doors in the base-

ment of an apartment at 14 Parkway. The room was made available to the school by the Federal Government.

Greenbelt, with its planned streets, walks, underpasses and playgrounds had much to offer children, but the parents recognized the need for a nursery school where under trained supervision and with a variety of equipment, three and four year olds could share experiences with others their own age. Such a nursery school would also be a center for parent growth in understanding the child and his world.

The nursery school was housed in the basement quarters until 1959 when the school was moved to the Community Church's Fellowship Center.

FOREIGN LANGUAGE ASSOCIATION

Greenbelt, pioneer in so many things, followed its own tradition by having the first schools in Prince Georges County to teach a foreign language in an afternoon, PTA-sponsored program. This was four years ago, when Mrs. Rose Ambérg and Mrs. Helen Geller offered simultaneous resolutions at Center and North End Schools requesting PTA endorsement of foreign language in-

struction. Mrs. Lisa Dalton, first president of Foreign Language Association of Greenbelt (FLAG), did yeoman work the first year organizing classes and securing a teacher. Since then the program has spread all over the county.

It is generally believed that young children learn a foreign language much more readily than older children. Their ears are more receptive to the unfamiliar sounds and they are not self conscious as high school students often are. There is no written work for the first few years; the children learn by listening and speaking and soon they are able to carry on simple conversations.

For the past two years, Greenbelt has also pioneered in offering a summer French program consisting of one hour of instruction daily for 3 weeks.

The instructor is Mrs. Ann Andersen, a Greenbelt resident who has studied in France and taught in the Barrie Schools. The officers for the coming year are Mrs. Harvey Geller, Pres., Mrs. Sandford Cornett, Vice Pres., North End School; Mrs. Howard Laster, Vice Pres., Center School; Mrs. Edward Wuermsier, Vice Pres., St. Hugh's School; Mrs. Clifford Simonson, Treasurer and Mrs. George Jones, acting Secretary.

Religious Facilities

COMMUNITY CHURCH

Interdenominational Protestant services were begun in Greenbelt on November 14, 1937, with the aid of the Council of Churches, National Capital Area, and in May 1938, the first pastor, Rev. Robert Lee Kinchloe was called. He was succeeded in 1941 by the Rev. Wilmer P. Johnston, followed in 1946 by the Rev. Eric T. Braund who remained with the church ten years.

In 1948 the Community Church became affiliated with the Washington Association and Middle Atlantic Conference of Congregational Christian Churches. The following year, in February, 2.5 acres of land was purchased from the Federal Government at the corner of Hillside and Crescent. The building committee with John Littleton as chairman selected the firm McLeod and Ferrara as architects. Ground-breaking ceremonies were held on June 5, 1949, and the building completed exactly one year later by the O'Neill Construction Company.

In September 1952 the congregation voted to construct a one-story building to be used for religious education and social activities. Under the chairmanship of Lloyd Moore, the building committee again

used the architectural services of McLeod and Ferrara. The new Fellowship Building was ready for use by March 1953.

The Rev. Donald N. MacKenzie became the fourth pastor in 1957. The same year saw the addition of a Moeller Pipe organ. Built in Hagerstown, Maryland, it bears the plaque "All Souls Memorial Organ."

The Rev. Kenneth B. Wyatt also came to Community Church in 1957, becoming its fifth pastor in 1959. This year the Community Church celebrates its twenty-fifth anniversary along with the town of Greenbelt.

ST. HUGH'S CATHOLIC CHURCH

From 1937 to 1947, St. Hugh's was a mission of Catholic Holy Redeemer Parish, Berwyn. Mass and other services were held in the Greenbelt Theater and Catholic children attended the Parish school at Berwyn. Efforts in 1942 to begin a building program were delayed for some years by the war.

In June 1947 St. Hugh's became a parish and the Rev. Victor J. Dowgiallo was assigned as the first pastor. Father Dowgiallo was ordained in St. John Lateran's Basilica, the

Pope's Cathedrale, Rome, in December 1928.

The parish purchased three acres of land on Crescent in February 1949. Architects Ross and Walton were engaged to design an elementary school and Parish Hall. Ground-breaking ceremonies were held in May and in October the school opened for classes. The formal dedication of the new building was held November 6. The school is staffed by Sisters of the Holy Cross Order. During the school year the Sisters live in St. Hugh's Convent, a row of four houses at 58 Crescent. The school is supported wholly by the parish.

In June 1958 the Rev. Paul F. Liston came to the parish as assistant pastor. The following year in June the Rectory was completed to serve as living quarters for the priests and administration building for the parish.

St. Hugh's Parish membership now includes about 500 families and 432 students are enrolled in St. Hugh's Parish School. According to Parish Secretary J. A. Gallant, "... we look forward with great joy to the erection of a church in the near future."

JEWISH COMMUNITY CENTER

The Jewish Community Center of Prince Georges County, which is located in Greenbelt, was formally organized in January 1947, although a small Hebrew Congregation had been functioning in Greenbelt since March 1939. Rabbis Leon Ellsberg and Morris A. Sandhaus, early religious leaders, did much to bring about close coordination between the different religious groups of Greenbelt through interfaith meetings. Services were held at the Community Building (Center School) and, at times, in the Community Church.

The first step toward acquiring a building was taken in 1949 when, together with the other church groups, the JCC persuaded a reluctant Federal Government to sell the land which had been designated as church sites in the original plans for Greenbelt.

In 1951 the members decided to attempt to put up a building themselves, utilizing their own time, talent and energy. Thus began a project which competent professional contractors, called in for consultation, said could not be done by the unskilled, inexperienced members of the JCC. Undaunted, the group commenced the backbreaking job of clearing the land and digging the foundations. The men slowly, painfully began to learn a new trade. The contractors, whose predictions had been so forboding, came to observe, and went away amazed. Contributions started pouring in. Bricks, sand, cinder blocks, cement, lumber, steel, windows, window frames, tools of all kinds, materials - the flesh and blood and bones of a building. In the community, inspired by the example of this dedicated group, "Help JCC Days" were organized, in which all the church groups participated. Side by side, Catholics, Jews, Methodists, Baptists, Lutherans, all worked together.

The building was completed and dedicated in March 1955. In 1961, the organization was able to purchase an additional three acres of ground adjacent to the building, providing ample room for future expansion.

The spiritual leader of the Jewish Community Center is Rabbi Morris Gordon.

HOLY CROSS LUTHERAN

In March 1944 Greenbelt Lutherans then attending services in Mt. Rainier invited the assistance of their pastor, the Rev. Edwin E. Pieplow, in forming a Greenbelt Lutheran Church. The first service was held April 9 at the home of Edward F. Trumbule. Rev. Pieplow conducted services in the Center School until 1950.

In February of 1949 land was pur-

chased at 22 Ridge as a future building site.

In October 1950 Chaplain (Col.) Martin C. Poch, U.S.A.F., consented to serve temporarily as pastor until a full time minister could be called.

Ground breaking services for the future church were held May 6, 1951. Two months later Mr. Edward H. Birner was assigned as vicar to the church. The following April the church was admitted to membership in the Lutheran Church — Missouri Synod. During July, Mr. Birner's year as vicar ended and he was succeeded by Mr. Robert Jones. On July 27 dedication services for the new church building were conducted by Rev. Pieplow. The congregation adopted a Council form of government. And in the fall of 1952 the kindergarten, open to all children, was established.

In August 1953 Mr. Birner was ordained and returned as pastor of the Greenbelt Church, where he has remained.

The congregation officially changed its name to Holy Cross Lutheran Church on December 8, 1958.

In the fall of 1961 the architectural firm of Ronald S. Senseman was contracted to draw up plans for expanding the present church building. However, the plans have not developed as anticipated and it is now hoped that a new building site will be made available by the fall of 1962.

MOWATT MEMORIAL METHODIST CHURCH

Prior to 1946, the midweek services of the Methodist church were held in private homes, with Sunday evening meetings conducted by guest preachers at Center School.

On November 8, 1946, the membership opened the doors of the first church building erected in Greenbelt. This was a one-room chapel donated by Mr. and Mrs. Alexander Mowatt, now both deceased, in memory of their son, Lt. Frank G. Mowatt, who was killed on his 31st "mission" over Germany in 1944. This chapel was purchased from Model City on the Maryland University campus, shipped to Greenbelt, and reassembled by the congregation on government-leased land on Woodland Way. This generosity prompted the members to memorialize Lt. Mowatt.

In December 1946, the church with a membership of 70 was formally accepted by the Baltimore Conference and a pastor, the Rev. Chester J. Craig, who had been assisting in the midweek and Sunday evening meetings, was appointed.

In February 1949, the present 4-acre site at 40 Ridge was purchased from the Federal Government. Pending the construction of the new quarters, the Sunday meetings were

transferred to the North End School. Plans for the building were consummated under the guidance of the Rev. Charles R. Strausburg, who had been persuaded to come out of retirement after 50 years of service to become Greenbelt pastor.

The spirit of do-it-yourself carried over to the new site and the lot was cleared and made ready for the builders by the members. The structure was started in March 1955 and was used for the first time on September 11, 1955, with consecration services on October 9, 1955. It is an all-purpose educational building, planned for expansion to twice its present size. The addition of a sanctuary is planned north of the present building.

Full-time Pastors

Stanley F. Knock, Jr.	1954 - 1956
Walter Christian Smith	1956 - 1959
Kenneth Bowen	1959 - 1959
Charles H. Gill	1960 - 1961
Lyle E. Harper	1961 -

GREENBELT BAPTIST CHURCH

For several weeks in the early summer of 1953 Mr. Charles C. Edwards conducted gatherings of Baptists in the Greenbelt Theater. In the fall Dr. William J. Crowder, Director of Missions and Evangelism, District of Columbia Baptist Convention, took over as acting pastor with the First Baptist Church of Hyattsville as sponsor to the new chapel. Thirty-four people attended the first worship service on October 18; seven asked for membership. The housing of the chapel was then moved to the Center School.

Early in 1954 the Metropolitan Baptist Church, Washington, took over sponsorship and in the fall the Rev. Glenn W. Samuelson, First Baptist Church of Silver Spring, was invited to become the first full-time pastor. The parsonage at 4-E Hillside was purchased in January 1955, and in December four acres of land at the corner of Crescent and Greenhill were purchased. G. Truman Ward was then selected as architect to design a four-unit church building.

With the celebration of the Formal Service of Constitution, October 20, 1957, the Greenbelt Baptist Church became self-governing and was now ready to move ahead on the building program. Ground-breaking ceremonies were held in March 1958, and a year later on March 11 the congregation moved into the new tan brick, two-story church building.

The Rev. S. Jasper Morris of Baton Rouge, Louisiana, became the second full-time pastor in October 1961.

With an increasing membership now past the 300 mark, the Church looks forward to building its second unit to provide additional facilities for religious education.